

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 7-12 were withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected subject matter. Independent claim 1 has been amended by the present amendment. The amendment is fully supported by the application as originally filed (see specification at page 1, line 22 to page 2, line 4; and page 13, lines 7-12).

Applicants' claimed invention is directed to a flexographic printing plate including a raised part for transferring a printing substance to a printing substrate, where "the printing substance is transferred to the printing substrate by the raised part contacting the printing substrate" (see specification at page 1, line 22 to page 2, line 4; and page 13, lines 7-12).

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,343,550 to Feesler. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Feesler in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2004/0099389 to Chen et al. ("Chen"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Regarding the rejection of independent claim 1 over Feesler, the Feesler reference does not teach or suggest a flexographic printing plate in which a printing substance is transferred to a printing substrate by a raised part contacting the printing substrate.

On page 2 of the Office Action of 04/30/2007, a ridge 40 depicted in FIG. 3 of Feesler was cited as allegedly corresponding to the Applicants' claimed "raised part."

In Feesler, a pull band 34 is attached to a printing plate 22 (see, e.g., Abstract and FIGS. 4-5 of Feesler). The pull band 34 "is operative to grip a flexible substrate to maintain a preselected relationship between the plate and the substrate" (column 4, lines 52-54).

In other words, the pull band 34 is provided to grip the substrate, and thus correct for the problem of curling edges during printing (see, e.g., column 2, lines 35-44 of Feesler).

In Feesler, the ridge 40 of the pull band 34 does not transfer ink to the substrate, but instead merely grips the substrate to prevent its edges from curling.

Therefore, Feesler does not teach or suggest a flexographic printing plate in which a printing substance is transferred to a printing substrate by a raised part contacting the printing substrate.

For at least the reasons discussed above, the Feesler reference does not anticipate or otherwise render obvious the Applicants' claimed invention. Therefore, independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-6 are patentable over Feesler.

It is believed that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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